IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kouji KITA Art Unit: Serial No. : filed concurrently Examiner:

Filing Date: July 27, 2001

Title : IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE,

IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM

FOR RECORDING IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination for this application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please change page 13, line 22 as follows:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee. --

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please substitute the following Abstract of the Disclosure on page 60:

Preliminary Amendment

Application No.: filed concurrently

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-- The image processing device is configured including: a Y/C separator section for separating image data into chromaticity data BY_{xy} , RY_{xy} and luminosity data YY_{xy} ; a chromaticity noise removing section for smoothing the chromaticity data $\mathrm{BY}_{\mathrm{xy}}$, $\mathrm{RY}_{\mathrm{xy}}$: a luminosity noise removing section for smoothing the luminosity data YYxy; and a noise-removing-rate computing section for computing a distribution parameter DP representative of a variation of the luminosity data $\mathrm{YY}_{\mathrm{xv}}$ in two-dimensional coordinate space and computing, for each unit area of an image, a rate of the smoothing of the chromaticity data BY_{xy} , RY_{xy} and a rate of the smoothing of the luminosity data YY_{xy} according to the distribution parameter DP as outputs to the chromaticity noise removing section and the luminosity noise removing section respectively. The image processing device can execute image processing on digital image data to reduce a coarse look caused by film particles without blurring edges in the image. --

REMARKS

By this amendment, the specification has been amended to insert the required language for color photographs as the first paragraph of the Brief Description of the Drawings section as set

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forth in 37 CFR 1.84(a)(2). Also, the Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to reduce the number of words so as to comply with the new USPTO rules.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this amendment or the remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 27, 2001

Randolph A. Smith Reg. No. 32,548

SMITH PATENT OFFICE

1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.,

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Washington, DC 20006-3433 Telephone: 202/530-5900 Facsimile: 202/530-5902

Kita072701

Preliminary Amendment

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Submitted herewith is a marked-up version of the amended the abstract of the disclosure to show changes made in the foregoing Amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The specification on page 13, line 22 has been changed as follows:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee. --

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been changed as follows:

-- The image processing device is configured including: a Y/C separator section for separating image data into chromaticity data

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BY $_{xy}$, RY $_{xy}$ and luminosity data YY $_{xy}$; a chromaticity noise removing section for smoothing the chromaticity data BY $_{xy}$, RY $_{xy}$: a luminosity noise removing section for smoothing the luminosity data YY $_{xy}$; and a noise-removing-rate computing section for computing a distribution parameter DP representative of a variation of the luminosity data YY $_{xy}$ in two-dimensional coordinate space and computing, for each unit area of an image, a rate of the smoothing of the chromaticity data BY $_{xy}$, RY $_{xy}$ and a rate of the smoothing of the luminosity data YY $_{xy}$ according to the distribution parameter DP as outputs to the chromaticity noise removing section and the luminosity noise removing section respectively. The image processing device can execute [such] image processing on digital image data [that can] to reduce a coarse look caused by film particles without blurring edges in the image. --